

P24195.A01



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3732

Appln. No. : 10/659,303

Examiner:

Filed : September 11, 2003

For : VERTEBRA BODY PLATE FOR VERTEBRAL COLUMN FIXING SYSTEM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following document to the Examiner's attention:

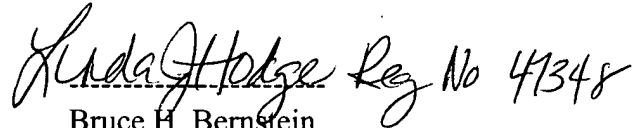
Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 8-229052, published on September 10, 1996, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is discussed on page 1 of the specification of the instant application.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and cite the patent document. A copy of the above-noted document is attached and has been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate space on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of this document.

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Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

December 11, 2003
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

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